



## The Salvation Army

**United Kingdom  
Territory  
with the Republic  
of Ireland**

Office of the  
Territorial Commander

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**To: All Salvationists  
The United Kingdom Territory with the Republic of Ireland**

20 March 2012

Salvationists will be aware of the publicity surrounding the announcement of the Equal Civil Marriage Consultation from Government on 15th March 2012. The consultation sets out the government's proposals to enable same-sex couples to have a civil marriage. Internal discussions are ongoing and we will be submitting The Salvation Army's response before the deadline of June 14<sup>th</sup> 2012.

The Salvation Army is firmly convinced that the strengthening and encouragement of the institution of marriage is vitally important to the maintenance of secure family life, and that this, in turn, is crucial to stability in society as a whole.

The Salvation Army affirms the New Testament standard of marriage, that is, the voluntary and loving union for life of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others, this union being established by an authorised ceremony.

We make our belief clear that marriage is a religious ceremony, a covenant between God and a wife and a husband, as well as a legally binding contract. For those who do not share these beliefs we acknowledge the provision of a legal civil ceremony.

As a Christian Church we are firmly against any change to the definition of marriage and believe that neither the State nor the Church has the right to redefine its meaning.

We believe that it is wrong to discriminate against anyone in the provision of social and pastoral care because of their presumed or declared identity.



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The Salvation Army has a clear line, expressed through our positional statements, available on our website, on [human sexuality](#) and [marriage](#).

I urge **all members of The Salvation Army** to take action through the most relevant and effective channel by writing to **your** local MP. You can find your local MP's contact details here:

<http://www.theyworkforyou.com/>

In addition to writing to your MP, I urge you to continue in prayer for this important issue.

Warm personal greetings,

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Matear". The signature is written in a cursive, somewhat stylized font.

John Matear  
Commissioner  
Territorial Commander